

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SY-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 FEAE-00 OES-06 INT-05

SCCT-01 /082 W

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R 120708Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1063

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, PINS, LE, ENRG

SUBJECT: FIRE AT TAPLINE (MEDRICO) REFINERY

1. IN A CALL MADE BY ADMIN COUNSELOR ON DAVID DODGE, HEAD OF TAPLINE IN LEBANON, TO LEARN EXTENT OF DAMAGE AT REFINERY, MR. DODGE REPORTED THE FOLLOWING.

2. BOTH THE MEDRICO REFINERY AND THE TANK FARM OF REFINED PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN HIT. THE TAPLINE TANK FARM CONTAINING CRUDE IS INTACT.

3. AT THE REFINERY THE MAIN MANIFOLD AND MUCH PIPING HAVE BEEN DESTROYED. REPAIRS WOULD TAKE SIX WEEKS IF RPT IF PARTS ARE AVAILABLE AND IF WORKERS COULD BE INDUCED TO ATTEMPT REPAIRS UNDER THREAT OF SYRIAN FIRE; PERHAPS MONTHS IF PARTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE.

4. AT THE TANK FARM (REFINED PRODUCTS), TWO MAZOUT (DIESEL FUEL) AND TWO GASOLINE TANKS WERE HIT AND ARE STILL BURING. THE FIRES ARE BEING FOUGHT TO AVOID SPREADING BUT THE CONTENTS-- 23,000 BARRELS EACH IN THE TWO MAZOUT TANKS, AND 8700 BARRELS EACH IN THE TWO TANKS OF PREMIUM GAOLINE--MAY BE CONSIDERED LOST.

5. THE ESTIMATED INVENTORY BEFORE THE FIRE HAD BEEN 100,000

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BARRELS OF MAZOUT; 30,000 BARRELS OF GASOLINE.

6. NO PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN INJURED.

7. THE 12,600 BARRELS OF GASOLINE REMAINING WOULD NORMALLY REPRESENT THREE-DAY SUPPLY FOR WEST BEIRUT ONLY.

8. MR. DODGE WILL TRY TO GIVE US AN ESTIMATE LATER ON HOW LONG THE 54,000 BARRELS OF MAZOUT MIGHT BE EXPECTED TO LAST BASED ON RECENT DELIVERY RECORDS.

9. PLO AND FATAH HAVE BEEN CONTROLLING THE REMOVAL OF THESE PRODUCTS AND RESERVING MUCH FOR THEIR OWN USE. IT MAY NOW BE EXPECTED THAT CONTROLS WILL BE TIGHTENED FURTHER BUT, HOPEFULLY, AUH WILL BE PERMITTED ITS REQUIREMENTS FOR MAZOUT FOR ITS GENERATORS, AND EMBASSY--AT LEAST UNDER PRESENT INFORMAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN IT AND AUB--CAN EXPECT MODEST PORTION OF MAZOUT DELIVERIES--ENOUGH TO KEEP ITS OWN GENERATOR GOING.
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